

B I G G L E S W A D E R U R A L D I S T R I C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR THE YEAR 1942

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

-and-

SANITARY INSPECTOR

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C.A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

C.M.ROBINSON, F.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.

as Sanitary Inspector, and Meat and Foods Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

H. W. PRIDMORE, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., as Sanitary Inspector.

Meat Inspector:

J.J.E. JONES

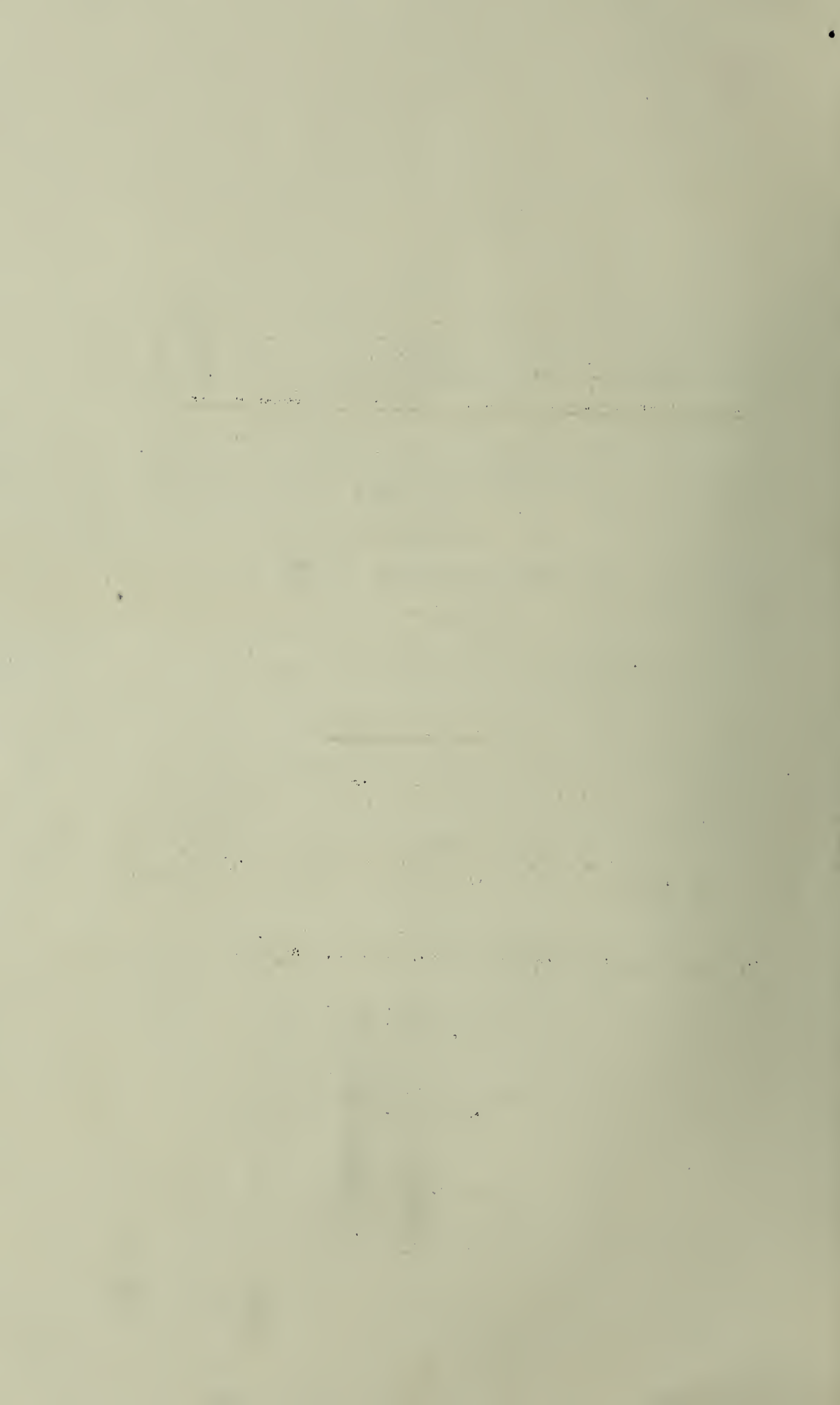
Junior Assistant:

K.W. WOODMAN

Clerk:

Miss D. SIVYER

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# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .....	49,152
Registrar-General's estimate of population .....	23,690
Number of inhabited houses end of 1942 according to Rate Books. ....	5,872
Rateable Value .....	£93,135. 0. 0d
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£372.16. 2d

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .....	180	172	352
Illegitimate .....	10	8	18

Birth Rate, 15.5 per 1,000 civilian population.

## STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .....	2	6	8
Illegitimate .....	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate, 0.33 per 1,000 civilian population.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths .....	131	117	248

Death Rate, 10.4 per 1,000 civilian population.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth:

From Sepsis .....	0
From other causes ..	0
Total ...	0

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .....	10	11	21
Illegitimate .....	1	-	1

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births .....	59.4
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	55.5
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	12
per 1,000 live births.	

The causes of death were:-

<u>Ref.</u>		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	4	4
7	Other forms of tuberculosis.	1	2
8	Syphillitic Disease.	1	-
13	Cancer of bronchial cavity etc.	3	2
14	" of stomach & duodenum.	2	3
15	" of breast.	-	4
16	" all other sites.	9	11
17	Diabetes.	-	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	11	7
19	Heart disease.	24	36
20	Other diseases of circulatory system.	7	1
21	Bronchitis.	6	9
22	Pneumonia.	12	4
23	Other respiratory diseases.	2	1
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	1	-
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	3
26	Appendicitis	2	-
27	Other digestive diseases.	4	1
28	Nephritis.	4	4
31	Premature births.	3	3
32	Congenital malformation, birth injuries etc.	1	3
33	Suicide.	3	-
34	Road traffic accidents.	4	1
35	Other violent causes.	5	3
36	All other causes.	20	14
Total .....		<u>131</u>	<u>117</u>

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

##### SECTION C:

1. (1) Water During the year, a new borehole was sunk into the lower green sand near Meppershall, in order to augment the existing supply.

New mains laid during the year:-

2,999 yards 6 inch and ) Newtown to R.A.F. Station, Henlow.
97 " 9 inch ) (Air Ministry)
3,262 " 14 inch Meppershall - Clifton.
1,008 " 4 inch Chicksands (Air Ministry)

Samples are taken at regular intervals, and the result of the latest examination was as follows:-

# CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance	Bright - slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris.		
Colour	Normal	Odour	Nil.
Reaction pH	Neutral: 7.4	Free Carbonic Acid	1.2
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	540	Total Solids, dried at 180°C	36.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.9	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	24.5
Hardness: Total	28.5	Temporary	22.5
		Permanent	6.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Trace
Free Ammonia	0.0200	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	7..
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0020	Albuminoid Nitrogen	7..
Oxygen Absorbed in 4hrs. @ 27°C	0.030		
Metals	Iron: 0.005	Other metals absent.	
'Free chlorine reaction' absent.			

# BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Number of "Bacteria" growing on)			
Agar per cc. or ml.in)	1	2	26
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	≠ Present 50 c.c.:	Absent 10 c.c.:	
Bact. coli	Present 7.....	Absent 100 c.c.:	
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present 7.....	Absent 100 c.c.:	
≠ False presumptive reaction			

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, neutral reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. Water is hard in character although not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.



- (ii) Drainage and Sewerage: No material change.  
 2. Rivers and Streams: No change.  
     (i) Closet Accommodation: " "  
     (ii) Public Cleansing: " "

Sanitary Inspection of the Area: Work has proceeded as normally as circumstances will allow.

Swimming baths and pools: There was only one swimming pool at an entertainments centre in the district, and these premises have been requisitioned by the Military Authorities.

Eradication of bed bugs:

- (a) Council Houses found to be infested ... -  
 (b) Other houses " " " " ... 12

Six of the infested houses were occupied by evacuees.

Disinfestation was carried out in each case, Lowes block disinfestators and Zaldecide liquid being used. The process was repeated after a lapse of ten days, and all bedding was disinfected.

Schools: No change.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act: The Bedfordshire County Council is the responsible authority under this act.

Factories and Workplaces: No change - Routine visits have been made.

H O U S I N G

Of necessity, work under this heading has fallen to an unprecedented low level.

The increasing shortage of accommodation is now very clearly indicated by the increased amount of work necessary to maintain existing accommodation, (some of which is already the subject of Demolition Orders) in a condition reasonably fit for war time occupation.

No applications were received for Grants under Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply: The work of supervision was maintained as far as possible. 57 farms are registered for the production of milk, and 16 persons are registered as retail purveyors of milk only. 2 Dairymen produce and retail Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk, and 20 farmers produce Accredited Milk. There are no pasteurizing plants in the district.

(b) Meat and other Foods: Usual inspections were carried out during the year. Further details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES

There was no great prevalence of any particular type of infectious disease during the year. The cases of typhoid fever all occurred in a Mental Hospital in the area. The cases of dysentery also occurred in that institution.

Prophylactic Measures against diphtheria continued to increase, and it is interesting to note that of the three cases of diphtheria notified, all were over twenty years of age. At the end of the year under review, it was considered that 85 per cent of the school population had been immunised. No alterations took place in the working of the scheme which was the same as at its inception in 1937.

TUBE CULOSIS: New cases and mortality during 1942:-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
20-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55-	1	2	-	1	2	1	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total - 1942	7	4	3	2	4	4	1	2

	INFECTIOUS DISEASE										AGE GROUPS				
Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65	All ages		
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3		
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	5		
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
Measles	-	1	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	7		
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	7	3	13		
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	3	1	15	3	2	5	1	-	-	31		
Whooping Cough	1	1	3	1	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	13		
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2		
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	6		
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Totals ..	1	3	5	4	4	24	3	2	18	3	11	4	82		

In conclusion, I should like to thank both the Council and my colleagues in the Health-Department and other services for their keen interest and co-operation during the year.

C. A. HARVEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,  
Biggleswade.

REPORT OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING THE  
YEAR 1942

I beg to submit my 31st annual report on the work carried out during the year 1942. As in previous years during wartime, ordinary routine work had to be curtailed, and other emergency duties carried out, but all essential matters have received attention.

HOUSING: Most essential housing repairs were carried out after delay in many instances caused by various wartime difficulties.

The following works were carried out to existing dwellings during the year:-

Sanitary improvements including drainage .....	288
Nuisances - informal action .....	79

NUISANCES: Complaints were of the usual type. All were investigated, and many of the complaints were due to the increased keeping of poultry, rabbits, etc., which in all but a few instances, were found to be well kept.

MEAT AND FOODS: Much time has been spent in this work at the two area slaughterhouses, and regular inspections were made at these and other food premises. One slaughter house was closed by the Ministry of Food in March. One assistant inspector is employed full time on the inspection of meat at the Government Controlled Slaughterhouse.

GENERAL:

Summary of Visits and Inspections:

Dwellinghouses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts..	352
Number of dwellinghouses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations 1925 (included above) .....	114
Re-Inspections and visits to works in progress .....	557
Visits to new buildings in course of erection .....	148
Inspection of factories including bakehouses .....	132
Inspection of dairies and cowsheds .....	151
Visits re infectious disease .....	58
Rooms disinfected .....	28
Miscellaneous visits including (Salvage, Evacuation, and other Emergency services) .....	2,554

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

<u>MEAT</u>	<u>CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED</u>				
	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number slaughtered	1,974	2,727	191	2,527	852
Number inspected	1,974	2,727	191	2,527	852
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT</u>					
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	14	-	6	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	316	1,023	1	61	75



	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	16,008	38.02	.502	2.65	9.27
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	13	253	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	385	1,499	-	-	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	20.16	64.24	-	-	0.704

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human food, was as follows:-

				Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	..	..	..	95	13	2	22
Pork	..	..	..		14	2	22
Mutton	..	..	..		7	0	12
Veal	..	..	..				5
Total..	..			96	15	2	5

#### OTHER FOOD SHOPS:

During the year frequent visits have been made to other food shops, and 91 eggs, 115 lbs. fish, 19 lbs. bacon,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. cheese,  $9\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. biscuits, and 202 tins various foodstuffs weighing  $650\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. have been found to be unfit for food.

MILK: Every endeavour has been made to maintain a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. This has been difficult in view of the present position of the dairymen with regard to labour etc. There were few causes for complaint, and these were promptly remedied. 151 visits of inspection were made.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman, members of the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, and staff of the Public Health Department, for their loyal co-operation.

Yours obediently,

C. M. ROBINSON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,  
Biggleswade.

